



3-14-05

Attorney Docket No. 859/US/3
Express Mail Label No. EV 622974362 USI FCS
SF

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Applicant	: Male et al.	
Appln. No.	: 10/658,032	Confirmation No: 2069
Filed	: September 9, 2003	Group Art Unit: 3752
Title	: FLEXIBLE SHOWER ARM ASSEMBLY	Examiner: Bui, Thach H.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R.
§§ 1.97(c)(2), 1.17(p) and 1.98 and STATEMENT OF RELATEDNESS UNDER M.P.E.P.
§ 2001.06(b)**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner is requested to consider the references noted on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 during examination of the above-identified patent application. These references are submitted for the Examiner's consideration and are submitted pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In submitting these references, no representation is made or implied that the references are or are not material to the examination of the application. The Examiner is encouraged to make his or her own determination of materiality. Pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of U.S. Patents and Publications are not provided. A copy of the foreign reference is provided herewith.

An English abstract of the following foreign patent could not be obtained. In order to satisfy the requirement of a concise explanation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)(i), the following description is provided:

German Patent No. DE854100 discloses a single bead having a male end and a female end, as well as a plurality of these beads connected together, with one end of the bead somehow differentiated from the other.

In satisfaction of the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and as required by M.P.E.P. § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is requested to consider the following applications commonly owned by the Assignee of the present application and that may include subject matter similar to that of the present application:

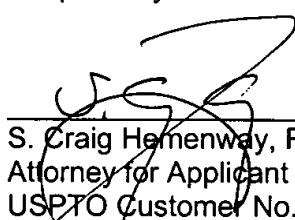
- (1) U.S. patent application no. 29/215,407, filed October 18, 2004, pending; and
- (2) U.S. patent application no. 08/308,404, filed November 14, 1994, now abandoned.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), but before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), please charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account no. 04-1415. If any additional fees are deemed necessary, such fees may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1415.

If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: 3/11/05

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the following documents:

1. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Statement of Relatedness (2 pages);
2. Form PTO-SB/08a (1 page);
3. Copy of One (1) Reference;
4. Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail (1 page); and
5. Return Card

relating to the above application, were deposited as "Express Mail" under 37 CFR § 1.10, Mailing Label No. EV 622974362 US, with the United States Postal Service addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 11, 2005.



Mailer's Signature
Print Name: Jane M. Lalis

EV622974362US

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03) U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO		APPLICATION NO.: 10/658,032	FILING DATE: September 9, 2003
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT: Male et al.	ART UNIT: 3752
(Use as many sheets as necessary)		EXAMINER NAME: Bui, Thach H.	ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 859/US/3

M A R 1 1 2 0 0 5
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
O I P E

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS*	Cite No. ¹	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	Name of Patentee of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number – Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		
	1.	4,568,216	02/1986	Mizusawa et al.	
	2.	4,707,770	11/1987	Van Duyn	
	3.	4,722,029	01/1988	Ahle et al.	
	4.	4,959,758	09/1990	Filosa et al.	
	5.	4,975,123	12/1990	Gray	
	6.	5,107,406	04/1992	Sekido et al.	
	7.	5,143,123	09/1992	Richards et al.	
	8.	5,215,338	06/1993	Kimura et al.	
	9.	5,667,148	09/1997	Pimentel et al.	
	10.	D406,636	03/1999	Male et al.	
	11.	6,199,729	03/2001	Drzymkowski	
	12.	D440,641	04/2001	Hollinshead et al.	
	13.	6,629,651	10/2003	Male et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ¹	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	Name of PATENTEE or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ³
		Country Code ⁴ – Number – Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
	14.	DE854100	10/1952	Grassl Ludwig Dipl.-Ing. Dr.-Ing.		

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. ²	Include name of Author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ³

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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¹ Applicant's unique citation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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² Applicant's unique citation number (optional).

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